

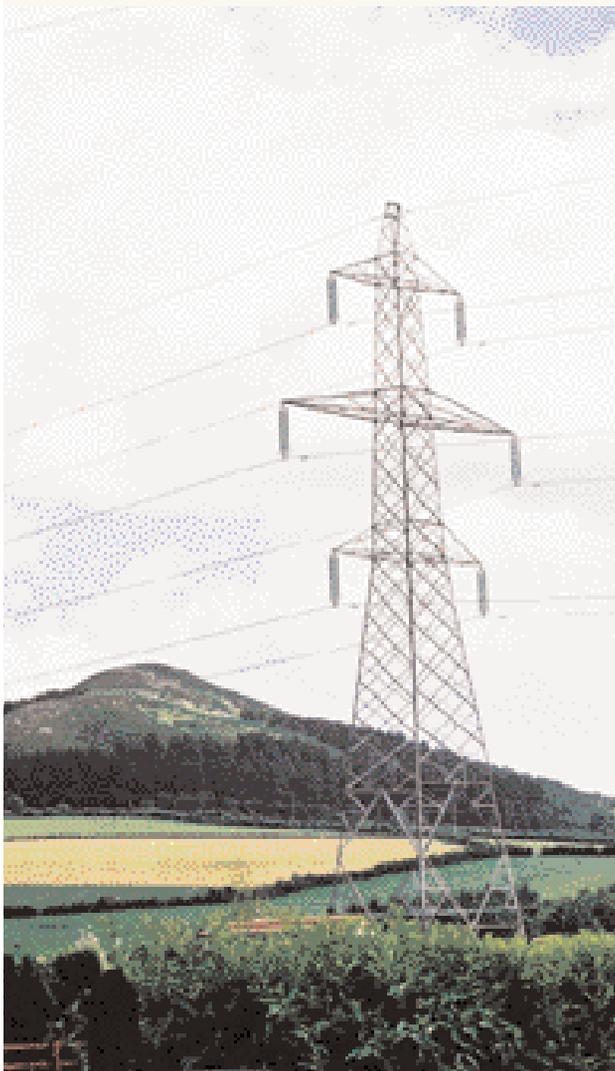
ENERGY AND  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

13



### Vision

To accord with the principles of sustainable development and to be at the forefront of new technology, it is the vision of this Plan to encourage and support energy efficiency, conservation and generation from renewable resources, and to facilitate the provision of a widespread accessible telecommunications infrastructure to all residents in the County.



### Context

The framework for the delivery of the policies and objectives, listed below, is set in the context of national and regional plans, policies and strategies.

At national level these include:

- *Sustainable Development – A Strategy for Ireland, DOE, 1997.*
- *National Spatial Strategy, 2000–2020 People, Places and Potential, DOELG, 2002.*
- *Windfarm Development, Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DOE, 1996.*
- *The National Climate Change Strategy, DOELG, 2000.*
- *Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures, Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DOE, 1996.*
- *Green Paper on Sustainable Energy, DPE, 1999.*
- *Strategy for Intensifying Wind Energy Development, DPE, 2000.*

The regional context is provided by the

- *Strategic Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area, 1999, and Annual Review and update for 2000, 2001 & 2002.*
- *Air Quality Management Plan for the Dublin Region, 1999.*

### Strategy

This chapter sets out the policies and development control objectives in relation to energy and telecommunications facilities. The strategic vision of the Plan, as expressed by the following policies, is twofold. Firstly, it is to promote and facilitate a widespread telecommunication infrastructure throughout the County, in order to achieve balanced social and economic development. Secondly, it is widely recognised that the capacity of existing energy resources is finite and therefore the strategy is to promote and support environmentally sensitive sources of energy to act as alternatives to existing resources.



### 13.1 Policy

#### 13.1.1 Policy ET1: Wind Energy

***It is Council policy to recognise the importance of wind energy, both on shore and offshore, when carried out in an environmentally acceptable manner.***

It is further recognised that Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown offers limited potential for on shore wind farm development due to the built-up nature of the County. In assessing any applications, the Planning Authority should take into account:

- *Wind Farm Development – Guidance for Planning Authorities*, September 1996.
- *Planning Guidelines for Wind Energy* - Irish Planning Institute, May 1995.
- *Landscape Character Assessment of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council*, May 2002.
- *Green Paper on Sustainable Energy*, DPE, 1999.
- *Strategy for Intensifying Wind Energy Development*, DPE, 2000.
- The customised digital terrain map when prepared by the Renewable Energy Information Office.
- Impact on adjoining land uses, road traffic etc.
- Zones of visual influence.
- Impact on wildlife.

The Planning Authority will consult with the Department of Public Enterprise and the Department of the Marine, Communications and Natural Resources, with regard to any applications made in relation to wind energy.

The Council will welcome the customised digital terrain map which will be compiled by the Renewable Energy Information Office of the Irish Energy Centre. This map will illustrate the wind resource, electricity network and suitable or likely sites from a planning perspective.

#### 13.1.2 Policy ET2: Renewable Energy

***It is Council policy to support national and international initiatives for limiting emissions of greenhouse gases and encouraging the development of renewable energy sources.***

Renewable energy comes from natural, inexhaustible sources such as the sun, wind, falling water, oceans, plants and the earth. Renewable energy can also be derived from a range of waste products such as sewage, refuse and agricultural waste.

In line with the principles of sustainable development, the Council will encourage the development of appropriate renewable energy sources, which make use of natural resources in an environmentally acceptable manner.

The Council will respond to planning applications for renewable energy development on a case-by-case basis. They will be considered in the context of government strategy, taking into account other Council policies on land usage relating to sectors such as agriculture, tourism and other outdoor recreational activities, and any relevant guidelines issued by the government.

#### 13.1.3 Policy ET3: Energy Facilities

***It is Council policy to encourage the provision of energy facilities in association with the appropriate service providers. In addition, the Council will facilitate the expansion of the existing service providers, notably Bord Gáis and the Electricity Supply Board (ESB), in order to ensure satisfactory levels of supply and to minimise constraints for development.***

The provision of a wide range of energy facilities will ensure that the needs of all sectoral interests in the County can be provided for in a sustainable fashion. The Council will be open to the future requirements of the major service providers, such as Bord Gáis and the ESB, where it is proposed to enhance or upgrade existing facilities. In this regard, due to the anticipated future demand for gas in the



County, Bord Gáis are proposing a new transmission pipeline and above ground installation in the Loughlinstown area. The future requirements of the ESB are principally concerned with the provision of a high voltage electrical infrastructure. With regard to excavation works on roads and footpaths by the service providers, the Council will insist on the proper reinstatement of these areas.

#### 13.1.4 Policy ET4: Overhead Cables

***It is Council policy to seek the undergrounding of all electricity, telephone and television cables wherever possible, in the interests of visual amenity and public health.***

It is the intention of the Council to co-operate with other agencies, and to use its development control powers to implement this policy. Overhead cables detract from visual amenity and the major services providers will be encouraged to underground existing and proposed services.

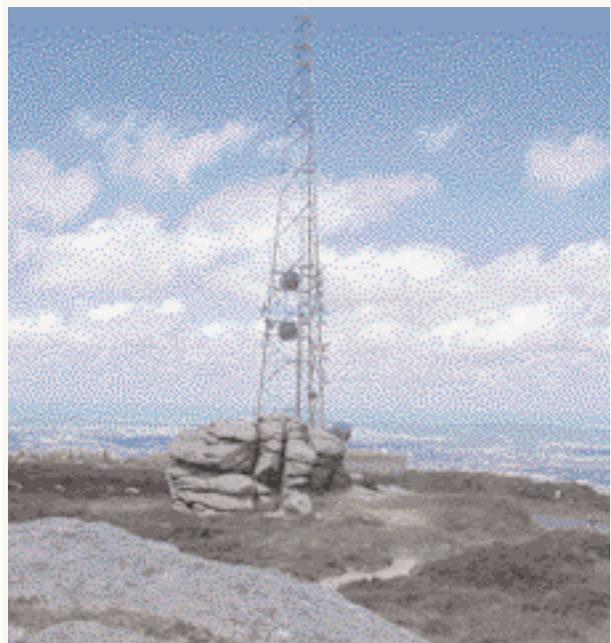
#### 13.1.5 Policy ET5: Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures

***It is Council policy, in the consideration of proposals for telecommunications antennae and support structures, to have regard to the "Guidelines for Planning Authorities" issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government in July 1996 (as may be amended), and to other publications and material as may be relevant in the circumstances.***

The Guidelines deal with telecommunications installations related to the provision of public cellular mobile telephone systems. They deal with the antennae required for receiving and transmitting telephony signals, the support structures for these antennae, the associated buildings and radio equipment containers, ancillary equipment such as poles and cables and with access roads to base stations. The Council will have regard to the contents of the Guidelines when evaluating planning applications for the provision of such installations. The Council will require, where antennae are erected, that the beam of greatest intensity from a base

station should not fall on any part of the school grounds or buildings without agreement from the school and parents. Antennae must meet the International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines for public exposure. Where an operator submits an application for planning permission for the installation, alteration or replacement of a mobile phone base station, whether at or near a school or college, the operator must provide evidence that they have consulted with the relevant body of the school or college. When considering an application for planning permission for the installation, alteration or replacement of a mobile base station at or near a school or college, the Council should consult the relevant bodies, and should take into account any relevant views expressed. Consultation should be in the form of written notification to the school governing body, inviting their comments by a specific date.

The Council will favour co-location of antennae by different operators on the same mast, in order to reduce proliferation and visual clutter. Applicants must satisfy the Council that they have made every reasonable effort to share with other operators.





### 13.1.6 Policy ET6: Telecommunications Infrastructure

*It is Council policy to promote and facilitate the provision of an appropriate telecommunications infrastructure, including broadband connectivity and other technologies, within the County.*

The widespread availability of broadband facilities throughout the County will be critical to the development of a knowledge economy, will help attract inward investment in hi-tech knowledge based industries and will engender the image of the County as the premier entrepreneurial county in the State (See Fig No. 7.1, Page 105).

### 13.2 Development Control Objectives

#### 13.2.1 Development adjacent to overhead power lines

In relation to development adjacent to overhead power lines, the following are the clearance distances as recommended by the Electricity Supply Board (ESB). For development in proximity to a 10kv or a 38kv overhead line, no specific clearance is required by the ESB. With regard to development adjacent to an 110kv overhead line, a clearance distance of 20 metres either side of the centre line or 23 metres around a pylon is recommended. Finally for a 220kv overhead line, a clearance distance of 30 metres either side of the centre line or around a pylon is required.



